Price Stabilisation of Tobacco

4432. SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a detailed plan for the price stabilisation of tobacco in the interest of farmers ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) to what extent will price stabilisation depend on market forces in the long run;

(d) whether a number of options have been tried in this regard; and

(e) the details of strategy proposed to bring about price stabilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Price stabilisation is resorted to when market forces are not able to determine the price.

(d) and (e) While administered price is one of the options that has been tried, one strategy being proposed is creation of a stabilization fund contributed and controlled by growers themselves with apppropriate managerial assistance.

Registration of Farmers with Tobacco Board

4433. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers who are registered with the Tobacco Board all over the country ;

(b) the break-up of such registration State-wise;

(c) the corresponding production of tobacco in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 State-wise ;

(d) wether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has not been pro-active in protecting the interests of the tobacco sector ; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such laxity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total number of tobacco farmers currently registered with the Tabacco Board in the country is 63051.

(b) The State-wise break-up for such registration is as follows :—

States	Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Karnataka	Total
No. of Farmers	44436	60	128	18427	63051

(c) State-wise corresponding production of tobacco in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows :—

Name of the State	Estimated production (M.Kgs.)	
	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	148.81	137.98
Maharashtra	0.24	0.20
Orissa	0.55	0.50
Karnataka	54.89	48.00
Total	204.49	186.68

Source : Tobacco Board.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Industries proposed to be Set up in M.P.

† 4434. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up industries, based upon agriculture, forest and minerals, in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the State Government has sent any detailed proposed to the Central Government for their approval in this regard ; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.